



Masonry Industry Promotion Group

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Mr. Peter DeVries, Chair
Washington State Building Code Council
PO Box 42525
Olympia, WA 98504-2525

Mr. Chairman and Council Members:

My name is Kevin Krebs with the Masonry Industry Promotion Group of Spokane. We represent masonry subcontractors, small businesses employing union labor in Washington State. I support the testimony offered by Mr. Tom Young. His point that the mass wall provisions of the proposed amendment are not cost-effective for the building owner should be given strong consideration. With efforts by some to continually make the energy code more stringent, at some point you no longer have a reasonable payback period to offset the increased cost. Cost-effectiveness is gone and the economy is negatively impacted. We are at that point now with masonry walls.

Beyond the issues we have presented with the nonresidential mass wall provisions, I would also like to add a comment regarding the residential portions of Log # 09-031. There is no credit given for mass walls in the proposed tables. This does not make sense and is contrary to the approach taken in the national energy codes where the thermal benefits of mass walls are recognized.

Another point I want to make is that due to the slow construction economy this is a bad time to impose more restrictive construction regulations. Union bricklayer man-hours of employment are down 60% this year. Our estimate is that this amendment would have a significant economic impact upon our industry. This issue has not been properly addressed during the code amendment process as it should have been.

The proposed code change would disadvantage our industry during an economic downturn and is not cost-effective for building owners. We ask the Council to deny the mass wall provisions of this amendment and maintain the current masonry energy code requirements.

The opportunity to speak on this issue is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kevin Krebs
Executive Director